<u>In the Claims</u>:

Please amend claims 1, 15 and 29 as follows:

1.　　(Currently amended)　A key information issuing device issuing key information <u>to a</u> key information retaining device, comprising:

　　　an authentication module authenticating an issuer of the key information;

　　　an output module outputting the key information to said key information retaining ~~unit~~<u>device</u>; and

　　　a recording module recording a mapping of the issued key information <u>to</u> <u>information of said key information</u> retaining unit,

　　　wherein the key information is issued in response to an indication of the authenticated issuer.

2.　　(Original)　A key information issuing device according to claim 1, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a key information input module inputting the key information in contact with said key information issuing device, and

　　　said output module includes a contact module outputting the key information in contact with said key information input module.

3.      (Original)  A key information issuing device according to claim 1, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a medium input module inputting information from a recording medium, and

said output module includes a recording medium write module writing the information to said recording medium, and issues the key information through said recording medium.

4.      (Original)  A key information issuing device according to claim 1, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a near communication module incapable of performing communications beyond a predetermined distance, and

said output module includes a near communication module incapable of performing the communications with said key information retaining device beyond a predetermined distance, and issues the key information through said near communication module.

5.      (Original)  A key information issuing device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a receiving module receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

a decoding module decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information.

6-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A key information issuing device according to claim 1, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

15. (Currently amended) A key information managing method of managing key information issued to a key information retaining device, comprising:

authenticating an issuer of the key information;

generating key information;

outputting the key information to said key information retaining unit; and

recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining unit.

16. (Original) A key information managing method according to claim 15, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes an input module inputting information in a contact manner, and

outputting the key information involves issuing the key information through said input module.

17. (Original) A key information managing method according to claim 15, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a medium input module inputting information from a recording medium, and

outputting the key information involves writing the information to said recording medium to issue the key information through said recording medium.

18. (Original) A key information managing method according to claim 15, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a near communication module incapable of performing communications beyond a predetermined distance, and

outputting the key information involves issuing the key information through said near communication module.

19. (Original) A key information managing method according to claim 15, further comprising:

receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information.

20-27. (Cancelled)

28.     (Original) A key information managing method according to claim 15, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

29.     (Currently amended)   A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program executed by a computer to manage key information issued to a key information retaining device, comprising:

authenticating an issuer of the key information;

generating key information;

outputting the key information to said key information retaining unit; and

recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining unit.

30.     (Original) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 29, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless

operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes an input module inputting information in a contact manner, and

outputting the key information involves issuing the key information through said input module.

31.    (Original) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 29, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a medium input module inputting information from a recording medium, and

outputting the key information involves writing the information to said recording medium to issue the key information through said recording medium.

32.    (Original) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 29, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a near communication module incapable of performing communications beyond a predetermined distance, and

outputting the key information involves issuing the key information through said near communication module.

33. (Original) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 29, further comprising:

receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information.

34-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 29, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.